

**LIBRARY OF MICHIGAN
BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING
March 23, 2007
10:00 a.m.**

Call to Order

The meeting of the Library of Michigan Board of Trustees was called to order at 10:00 a.m., on Friday, March 23, 2007, at the Library of Michigan, by Elaine Logan, Chair. Elaine welcomed the new Board members, noting the reappointment of Representatives Fran Amos and Aldo Vagnozzi.

Attendance

Members Present: William Anderson, B. Denise Bartlett, Barbara Bonge (alternate for Chief Justice Clifford Taylor), Linda Farynk, Elaine Logan, Charles Myers, Nancy Robertson, Nancy Skowronski, Michael Smith, Francis "Bus" Spaniola, Representative Aldo Vagnozzi

Members Absent: Representative Fran Amos, Senator Irma Clark-Coleman, Senator Tom George

Staff Present: Elaine Harrison, Sheryl Mase, Judith Moore, Jennifer Sipe (recording secretary)

Visitors: Roger Ashley, Christine Berro, Gretchen Couraud, Randy Dykhuis, Ann Holt, Victor Liu, Nadina Mein, Ken Miller, Jim Seidl

Agenda

Today's agenda was modified to accommodate Bill Anderson's schedule, as he needs to leave early to attend another meeting. Bill will give his report immediately following the MLC Board report.

BUS SPANIOLA MOVED APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA, AS AMENDED. MIKE SMITH SECONDED. THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

**Minutes of
January 26, 2007
Meeting**

CHARLES MYERS MOVED APPROVAL OF THE JANUARY 26, 2007, BOARD MINUTES. NANCY SKOWRONSKI SECONDED. THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

**Michigan Library
Consortium Board
Report**

Victor Liu (Washtenaw Community College), Christine Berro (Portage District Library), and Ann Holt (Capital Library Cooperative), all members of the MLC Board, presented a report to LM Board members. Victor distributed summary of talking points entitled "Michigan Library Association, Library of Michigan & Michigan Library Consortium: A Common Agenda Toward the Future of Michigan Libraries." MLC Board members attended today's meeting to initiate Board-to-Board discussion of coming together on the future of Michigan's libraries. Victor reviewed the history of MLA, MLC and LM and stressed the importance of MeL. Christine Berro reported on the importance of libraries being visible and

well funded. Christine stressed the importance of thinking and planning about future funding of MeL, and speaking with one unified voice. If MLA, MLC and LM speak with one voice it will be advantageous to the state's libraries – public, academic and special. Ann Holt spoke of 'branding.' Libraries are currently branded as "books," and libraries are much more than just books; however, this needs to be communicated statewide. With the current budget crises statewide, libraries must get their stories out to assure a place at the table. Victor Liu summarized for the Board, adding that libraries have to meet user needs and urged focusing on the next 5-10 years; start thinking about creating a joint task force to work with the Michigan Academic Library Council (MALC) and look at the recommendations MALC is putting together; and begin preparations for a statewide conference.

Discussion followed. Linda Farynk added that she is a member of MALC. MALC is creating drafts of case statements to obtain increased support for MeL, to be shared with MLA. A legislative breakfast, sponsored by MLA, is being planned for April; that should assist in getting the word out to legislators. Charles Myers suggested a quick 'catch phrase' for libraries, i.e. 'information, ideas and excitement,' and incorporating the word 'technology'; something simple that creates an image about libraries. Barbara Bonge agreed with the notion of having another statewide conference, adding the 'Preferred Futures' conference was held 10 years ago. Elaine Logan stated that the last conference was libraries talking to libraries and if a new conference is held it needs to include legislators and people that have influence in our communities, including library users. Nancy stated that we need to figure out what our customers need. Creating a task force to pull together such a conference would be good.

Budget Report

Bill Anderson reported on the most recent Executive Order, issued by Governor Granholm. Bill noted that libraries, arts and culture need to understand this is a grave situation and it can get worse. Legislators need to understand our value. Representative Vagnozzi noted that he does not expect these cuts to be accepted by the House, so bargaining will occur. Work on the new budget should hopefully be completed by the end of June.

Board Reports

Board Chair's Reports

Elaine Logan expressed her desire to stay in Michigan, regardless of Pfizer leaving. She is currently looking at transitioning into an academic or public library from a corporate library.

Board Members' Reports

Charles Myers shared a recent Resolution by the Kent District Library opposing the proposed 50% in state aid in the 2008 budget.

Barb Bonge noted that she went onto the Michigan.gov main Web site and was pleased to see MeL so visible on the front page.

**Legislator
Reports**

No further legislator reports were presented.

**State Librarian's
Report**

Nancy testified recently before the House and Senate Appropriations Subcommittees. Included in the Board packet was an update on the goals of the State Librarian. Nancy welcomes any questions Board members might have.

The Town Meetings with the State Librarian are currently underway. Six have been completed to date, with eight remaining. LM will provide a summary of all of the town meetings once they are completed.

Sheryl Mase organized a 2-day visit from the American Library Association (ALA) Washington, DC, office. The focus was on technology, as ALA had received a grant from the Gates Foundation to do a broadband study. Michigan was one of the states visited, and the three-person group learned a lot they had not anticipated. Michigan was found to have connectivity for the most part; however, inadequacies were found. The resulting question asked was 'what can the Gates Foundation do?' Sheryl will report further to the Board once all the ALA/Gates information has been compiled.

A genealogy seminar will be presented on March 31st; nearly 200 people have signed up.

Martin Frost will give a presentation in the Rare Book Room today. Carol Fink, the Library's Rare Book Librarian has been working with Judith Moore of the Library of Michigan Foundation to bring about this presentation. There will be a reception at 4:30pm in the Rare Book Room, followed by Mr. Frost at 5:30pm.

Sue Davidsen, LM's MeL Coordinator, will be leaving on March 30th. Sue has accomplished a lot in her time at the Library of Michigan.

An announcement will be made in April of the Michigan Reads! One State/One Book. Programming will begin in Michigan schools and libraries in September. This year's selected book, which is still confidential, is 'Big Chickens,' by Leslie Helakoski. Sheryl Mase read the book to Board members.

**LM Foundation
Report**

Judith Moore reminded Board members of the April 14th Notables event, inviting the Board to join in the festivities if at all possible. The Library of Michigan event will be preceded by a reception at the Governor's

residence, by invitation only. Judith provided extra blank invitations for any friends and/or family that might like to come to the Library that evening.

LMF is very excited about the new face of MeL and is currently looking at ways to support the marketing of MeL. A proposal is being created and the Foundation is hoping to meet with corporations in the state to talk about MeL within the next few months. A compilation is being put together of the hits/searches on MeL, in order to show its popularity. Elaine Logan recommended including legislative use figures. She is pleased this information is being broken down, as it is important to show who is benefiting by MeL. Nancy added that vendors are also gathering numbers.

Judith reported that it is hoped Nancy can attend the Mackinac Conference to speak on MeL.

LMF has set up a meeting in April with former Lansing Mayor David Hollister to make sure he knows how MeL can fit into the goal of boosting the regional economy and developing economic growth.

The Foundation's annual campaign will be mailed out soon and she asked for the Board's generous support.

The 2007 author tours start April 5th and go through the end of May. 67 libraries will host this year's Notables author tours.

Partnership

Reports

Cooperatives

Ken Miller, chair of the Cooperative Directors Association, presented his report.

MLA

Gretchen Couraud, executive director of the Michigan Library Association, distributed her report.

MLC

MLC's report was included in the Board packet. Randy Dykhuis added that MLC expects 180 libraries on MeLCat by the end of May. MLC is aiming for 300 MeLCat libraries by the end of 2007.

MAME

Roger Ashley, director of the Michigan Association for Media in Education (MAME) distributed his report, adding that he is pleased that Denise Bartlett was reappointed to the LM Board of Trustees, representing schools through October 2009.

Board Discussion

Items

Elaine Logan introduced discussion on the State of the State and Michigan libraries, adding that she sees many places where libraries

**State of the State
and Michigan
Libraries**

support the agenda of the Governor; however, library funding is being cut. Even though this subject was somewhat touched on earlier in today's meeting Elaine asked Board members to consider two other discussion items: 1) reforming government to save dollars and work better, adding that libraries collaborate constantly, and to continue to consider a second Preferred Futures conference that adds another dimension – something that advances collaboration to address our customers; and 2) even though there has been talk of another statewide library conference, the window on the 2008 budget is closing. Elaine asked if Board members want to do something now, on behalf of the Library of Michigan, prior to a conference? Libraries need to acknowledge the statewide situation and become part of the solution. Elaine again asked if the Board has any interest in putting together a message to send through the State Librarian to the Governor concerning how libraries support her agenda? Linda Farynk indicated that the board is an important, powerful body that should go on record.

BUS SPANIOLA MOVED THAT THE LIBRARY OF MICHIGAN BOARD OF TRUSTEES ASK NANCY ROBERTSON TO PREPARE A COMMUNICATION ABOUT HOW LIBRARIES AND THE STATE LIBRARY SUPPORTS THE MISSION THAT GOVERNOR GRANHOLM PUT FORTH IN HER STATE OF THE STATE, AND THAT BILL ANDERSON, DIRECTOR OF THE DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY, ARTS AND LIBRARIES, DO EVERYTHING HE CAN TO GET NANCY AN AUDIENCE WITH THE GOVERNOR. LINDA FARYNK SECONDED. THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Sheryl Mase added that legislation is being introduced to give funding to provide ACT tests. This is already being done on MeL; however, it is not being communicated. Elaine Harrison added that MLA is aware of this proposed legislation.

Old Business

No old business was brought before the Board.

New Business

Board members were invited to view a report on Wayne State University's digitization project in the Great Lakes Room after the adjournment of the meeting.

**Public
Participation**

Visitors introduced themselves.

Next Meeting

The next meeting of the board is Friday, May 11, 2007, at 10:00 a.m., in the Board Room.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 11:30 a.m.

Elaine Logan, Chair

Nancy R. Robertson, State Librarian